

**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of:

SARANI et al

Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Serial No.: New Application

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Filed: November 9, 2001

Attorney Dkt. No.: 023349-00253

For: A DEVICE FOR AUTOMATICALLY PRODUCING AN OPENING OR CAVITY IN  
THE SIDE OF A CERAMIC PRODUCT DURING MOLDING IN A MOULD

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 9, 2001

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fees and initial examination of the application,  
please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 5-7, 9, 14, 17, 21-23, 28, 30-31, 33, 43, 45-46, and 50 as follows. A copy of the marked up original claims is attached to this response showing the changes as set forth in amended 37 CFR 1.121.

5. (Amended) The device according to claim 2, wherein the fluid substance is gaseous.

6. (Amended) The device according to claim 2, wherein the fluid substance is a liquid.

7. (Amended) The device according to claim 2, wherein the fluid substance is a loose solid substance.

9. (Amended) The device according to claim 2, wherein the fluid substance is a gelatinous substance.

14. (Amended) The device according to claim 2, wherein the cover has a plurality of projections which can be attached to a matching plurality of windows.

17. (Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the punch has a casing of suitable thickness for covering the cover, at least partially.

21. (Amended) The device according to claim 17, wherein the casing incorporates at least one insert made of a suitable material.

22. (Amended) The device according to claim 17, wherein the casing is covered by a cap made of a suitable material.

23. (Amended) The device according to claim 17, wherein the casing (16) and the cover (12) are integral, forming a single body.

28. (Amended) The device according to claim 24, wherein the casing (16) incorporates at least one insert (31) made of a suitable material.

30. (Amended) The device according to claim 24, wherein the casing (16) is covered by a cap (34) made of a suitable material.

31. (Amended) The device according to claim 24, wherein at least the casing (16) of the punch is made from a material with deformability which varies according to the direction of deformation, the differential constriction means being made of the same material as the casing.

33. (Amended) The device according to claim 24, wherein the casing has a plurality of projections which can be attached to a plurality of windows.

43. (Amended) The device according to claim 40, wherein the cage or case is made of an antifriction material.

45. (Amended) The device according to claim 34, wherein the cage or case is housed in the seat.

46. (Amended) The device according to claim 34, wherein the seat has a variable cross-section, there being a cover with correspondingly variable cross-section housed in the seat.

50. (Amended) The device according to claim 2, wherein the actuator means comprise a delivery pipe which communicates with the cover internal cavity; and pressurized fluid substance generator means connected to the delivery pipe.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-55 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 5-7, 9, 14, 17, 21-23, 28, 30-31, 33, 43, 45-46, and 50 are amended to correct the multiple dependencies thereof and to place this application into better condition for examination. No new matter has been added.

In the event that there are any fees due with respect to the filing of this paper, please charge Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Marked-up Copy of Amended Claims

**MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS**  
**ATTY. DOCKET NO. 023349-00253**

5. (Amended) The device according to [any of the claims from 2 to 4] claim 2, wherein the fluid substance is gaseous.

6. (Amended) The device according to [any of the claims from 2 to 4] claim 2, wherein the fluid substance is a liquid.

7. (Amended) The device according to [any of the claims from 2 to 4] claim 2, wherein the fluid substance is a loose solid substance.

9. (Amended) The device according to [any of the claims from 2 to 4] claim 2, wherein the fluid substance is a gelatinous substance.

14. (Amended) The device according to [any of the foregoing claims] claim 2, wherein the cover has a plurality of projections which can be attached to a matching plurality of windows.

17. (Amended) The device according to claim 1 [or 16], wherein the punch has a casing of suitable thickness for covering the cover, at least partially.

21. (Amended) The device according to [any of the claims from 17 to 20] claim 17, wherein the casing incorporates at least one insert made of a suitable material.

22. (Amended) The device according to [any of the claims from 17 to 20] claim 17, wherein the casing is covered by a cap made of a suitable material.

23. (Amended) The device according to [any of the claims from 17 to 20] claim 17, wherein the casing (16) and the cover (12) are integral, forming a single body.

28. (Amended) The device according to [any of the claims from 24 to 27] claim 24, wherein the casing (16) incorporates at least one insert (31) made of a suitable material.

30. (Amended) The device according to [any of the claims from 24 to 28] claim 24, wherein the casing (16) is covered by a cap (34) made of a suitable material.

31. (Amended) The device according to [any of the claims from 24 to 30] claim 24, wherein at least the casing (16) of the punch is made from a material with deformability which varies according to the direction of deformation, the differential constriction means being made of the same material as the casing.

33. (Amended) The device according to [any of the claims from 24 to 32] claim 24, wherein the casing has a plurality of projections which can be attached to a plurality of windows.

43. (Amended) The device according to claim 40 [or 41], wherein the cage or case is made of an antifriction material.

45. (Amended) The device according to [any of the claims from 34 to 44] claim 34, wherein the cage or case is housed in the seat.

46. (Amended) The device according to [any of the claims from 34 to 45] claim 34, wherein the seat has a variable cross-section, there being a cover with correspondingly variable cross-section housed in the seat.

50. (Amended) The device according to [any of the claims from 2 to 23] claim 2, wherein the actuator means comprise a delivery pipe which communicates with the

cover internal cavity; and pressurized fluid substance generator means connected to the delivery pipe.